



Cover photo by Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti

Reconnaissance Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit hang out during a special purpose insertion/extraction refresher Jan. 13 at Camp Buehring in Kuwait.



Command Group

Commanding Officer.....Col. J.W. Bullard
Executive Officer.....Lt. Col. S.K. Russell
Sergeant Major.....Sgt. Maj. S. Johnson

Public Affairs

Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. B.V. Miramontes
Combat Camera Chief.....Gunnery Sgt. D.P. Stockhausen
Public Affairs Chief.....Staff Sgt. S. Jimenez
Combat Cameraman.....Sgt. B.K. Jones
Combat Correspondent.....Cpl. S.M. Biscuiti
Combat Illustrator.....Cpl. R.C. White

Pacific Pride is an authorized publication paid for by the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Box 555361 Camp Pendleton, Ca., 92055, commercial telephone number (760) 763-3512. Pacific Pride is published for informational purposes only and is not directive in nature. Contents of Pacific Pride are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps.



FROM THE CO



Families and friends,

Although the last six weeks have been very busy and challenging for the Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU, our spirits remain high. After having completed our backload onto the Tarawa from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, we expect the last couple months of our deployment to speed by as we continue to train.

While at Camp Buehring Marines and Sailors continued to sharpen and hone their skills through a comprehensive sustainment training package which involved weapons live-fire, fire support coordination and aviation training. The training period offered all-inclusive and realistic live-fire training on remote training ranges on Udairi Range.

While BLT 1/5 was training on Udairi Range, Marines and Sailors with the MEU's Command Element supported the Marines in the field, monitoring training, and planning the complex mission of retrograding Marines and Sailors back to Tarawa shipping. Additionally, Command Element Marines and Sailors spent time concentrating on

marksmanship skills, physical conditioning and various programs of instruction for convoy operations.

There is still much work ahead. From here we will remain near the Persian Gulf region where our mission continues to be one of forward presence and crisis response. Also, we will seek any opportunity to conduct training ashore when the schedule permits.

Thank you for your many e-mails and your continued prayers and support. Be proud of your Sailors and Marines who make up America's Force in Readiness.

Please keep in touch with your Key Volunteers for the latest update or visit our home page

at www.usmc.mil/11thmeu.

There is still much to be done as we look forward to the transit east back to San Diego. The Marines remained focused on the tasks at hand, though thoughts of home are always near. I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well.

Semper Fidelis,

J.W. Bullard
Colonel, USMC



Admin section keeps MEU up and running

by 11th MEU S1

During January, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Administration Section disembarked the USS Tarawa for sustainment training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The S1 Marines participated in live-fire ranges and Improvised Explosive Device and HMMWV Egress Assistant Training. They also took part in Entry Control Point simulation, a Day Tactical Convoy Course, a Cold Weather Uniform class given by the MEU Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Russell, and a 6 mile conditioning hike, led by the MEU Commander.

In addition to taking part in training, the S1 provided administrative support to the Command Element and the Major Subordinate Elements. During their down time, the S1 Marines took the opportunity to enjoy the MWR facilities and all that Camp Buehring had to offer.

Readers note: The photos included on this page depict S1 Marines at work and at play during their time in Kuwait.



Photo by Sgt. Bryson K. Jones

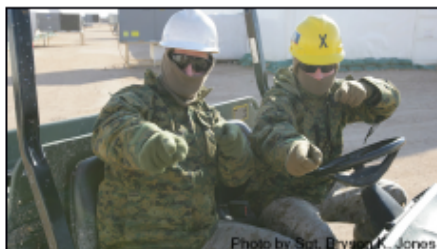


Photo by Sgt. Bryson K. Jones



Photo by Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

Combat *legal* keeps MEU prepared

by 11th MEU SJA

The transition from the USS Tarawa to Camp Buehring has given Maj. Francis and Cpl. Wood great opportunities to get involved in traditional Marine training. Both have been to the rifle range, HMMWV Rollover simulator, combat simulator, and IED identification training. These are opportunities that Marines in the legal field do not often get.

In addition to the combat arms training, Maj. Francis and Cpl. Wood have continued to provide legal services to the Marines of the 11th MEU. The opportunity to have the MEU all in one place at Camp Buehring, opposed to spread out over three ships, has allowed Marines to seek and receive legal assistance more readily. Legal assistance services are a vital benefit

offered to Marines while deployed. Just in the past six months alone, Maj. Francis and Cpl. Wood have provided legal assistance services as follows: provided over 400 powers of attorney; executed over 50 wills; and assisted over 500 Marines with general legal assistance matters.

Maj. Francis and Cpl. Wood are looking forward to the second half of the deployment and visiting other countries and places.

While at Camp Buehring, the AFLOAT Program is on hiatus. The program only allows instruction while at sea. Most classes completed mid-terms before debarking in Kuwait. The Criminal Justice and Criminal Procedure classes that Maj. Francis teaches should be complete within a few weeks of embark having left Kuwait.



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. White



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. David P. Stockhausen



Chaplain's Corner

Different Aspects of LOVE

by Lt. Cmdr. Perry Haagen, 11th MEU Chaplain

As it is February, I thought that it would be appropriate to talk about some aspect of St. Valentine's Day. But what? There are so many different things to talk about: The History of Valentine's Day (The History Channel online has an excellent site covering the history for those of you who are interested), who was St. Valentine, and others. I have decided to write to you about one of the central themes of Valentine's Day - Love. The question I would ask you is, "What Love are we talking about?"

After all - we say we love our spouse, we love our kids, and we love the Marine Corps. We even can say that we love chocolate! Can they possibly be the very one and same thing? Now you and I both know the answer. But what I want to point out is the word, Love, can mean several different things. The ancient Greeks recognized this and actually had four different words that today we would translate as Love: eros, phileo, agape, and storge. Each one of these has a different meaning and, as a result, the Greeks were able to be much clearer about what they meant when they said, "I love you." How much confusion over the years would have been avoided if English was that clear!

The first word for love, eros, is the word associated with romantic love and this is the root word for our word erotic. It is the term used to describe the love between a man and a woman. It is the feeling of "being in love." This is the type of love most think of when they think of Valentine's Day. Cupid, in fact, is the Roman name for the Greek god of love, Eros, as Venus was the goddess of love. The whole arrow bit comes from the Greek myth that Eros would shoot his arrows of love into some-

one and the very next person they saw they would fall in uncontrollably in love with. Normally, in the myths, this led to big problems. It can also lead to big problems for us, if we act solely on our feelings. While we need to feel, "in love," we also need to have the other aspects of love so that when we don't particularly feel "in love" we still have something to hold us together.

The second word for love, phileo, is the love of friendship and of family. It is the word that describes the love between brothers and sisters. It is also the word from which we get the word Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. It is the closeness that friends share that is wholly unlike that of lovers, but is no less binding. This is the great bond that is shared by those in the Marine Corps that only a Marine completely knows and under-

stands. Friends know each other better than perhaps anyone else. Without phileo, we don't have the type of love that likes the same things; that wants to go out and just have fun; that wants to do things together. While eros is nice, it is also important that we are also best friends as well.

The third word for love is agape, which is best described as an intentional love. It describes not a love of feeling or emotion, but rather a love that is a choice and an act of the will. It carries with it the idea that you have chosen to love, rather than necessarily feeling like loving. It is a love without limit. It is this word for love that is used in the Christian Bible in the famous verse from John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...." It is also the word for love used by the Apostle Paul in the famous passage



Photo by Sgt. Bryson K. Jones